

The Allen County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. with Chairman David E. Lee, Jerry Daniels, Commissioner, Bruce Symes, Commissioner, and Jill Allen, Deputy Allen County Clerk.

Mitch Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, Mark Griffith, Allen County Road and Bridge Director, Crystal Richey, Allen County employee, Tim Stauffer, Iola Register Representative, Robert Johnson, Allen County Counselor, Jason Trego, Emergency Manager, Terry Johnson, Donald Leapheart, Allen County employees and Paul Zirjacks, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Chairman Lee led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the regular meeting on August 29, 2023.

Commissioner Symes moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes for attorney client privilege. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 8:30 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Robert E. Johnson, II, Allen County Counselor and Mitch Garner, Public Works Director. Commissioners reconvened at 8:35 a.m. No action taken.

Sheriff Bryan Murphy joined the meeting.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes for attorney client privilege. Commissioner Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 8:40 a.m. Those present will be Commissioners, Robert E. Johnson, II, Allen County Counselor and Mark Griffith, Road & Bridge Director. Commissioners reconvened at 8:55 a.m. No action taken.

Chairman Lee asked for public comment. There was none.

Commissioner Daniels took a moment to recognize Wayne Faulkner, Woodson County Commissioner. He was a fatality in a vehicle accident over the weekend.

Donald Leapheart, Services to the Elderly Van driver, joined the commission to share his thoughts on Thrive taking over the county transportation service. He explained how he came to be the driver for the Services to the Elderly Van. He feels that this service is very special and the county does an excellent job providing such service. It is free to those in Allen County age 55 and over. Donald stated that these people really need the service as it is. He is not sure what Thrive plans to do with it, but he really would like to see the county continue to supply this transportation service, as it is now. Donald said thank you for the service, thank you for allowing people to ride for free. If it changes in any way, it will affect those that ride. Donald has been driving for three years.

Rachel Moore, Thrive, joined the meeting.

Mitch Garner, Public Works Director, reported on the new dozer. They have some more pictures framed and ready for the airport open house. Chairman Lee asked when would we get the most people at an open house. Mitch suggested a Saturday. He stated they are trying to get a permit to be able to put tires on the ground at the landfill. They are maybe just a week behind on the new cell at landfill. They still need to get the liner down before winter. Mitch reported on landfill staff.

Mark Griffith, Road & Bridge Director, reported on the ten-hour days. The mower max was discussed.

Rachel Moore, Thrive, joined the commission to talk about ARPA and Base grant. She handed out spreadsheets. Nothing for ARPA has changed since she was last at the meeting in May. The tower is done. Midwest Engineering is ready to bid, as early as today. The bid packet has been approved. They are doing extended water service to the airport. BG Consultants are still pinning down easements. Bob Johnson, County Counselor is working with them. The money must be spent by June 2024, per the Base grant. The project may not be done, but that's fine as long as the money is spent.

Jason Trego, Allen County Emergency Manager, discussed Emergency Management performance grant, it reimburses the county for a portion of his salary and benefits. It depends how much FEMA gives the State of Kansas. He needs Chairman Lee's signature on the application. He also needs his signature and County Clerk signature on Title VI form. Commissioner Daniels moved to approve Chairman Lee sign, Commissioner Symes seconded, motion passed 3-0-0.

Jason then talked about the Hazard Mitigation grant. This is due to a fire in Washington County. Chairman Lee asked if communities in the county are aware of this. Jason stated he sent it to the entities that are eligible. Elsmore and Savonburg chose not to participate. In order to participate an entity must attend a meeting and sign a paper adopting it as your local Hazard Mitigation plan. Jason will submit a letter of intent, eligibility is determined, then there is an application process. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Lee shared an email from St Luke's Senior Life Solutions. He read the email; they are asking permission to place ribbons on the lamp poles on either side of the Veteran's Memorial as well as a yard sign that states "Suicide Awareness month". There will be a walk as well at the hospital on September 19. Commissioner Symes moved to approve the ribbons be placed, Commissioner Daniels seconded, motion passed 3-0-0.

Commissioners reviewed the following documents:

- a) Composition of Cash Balances & Investments 8/31/2023
- b) Public Works Statement of Receipts, Disbursements & Balances Aug 2023
- c) Fee transaction summary by account number Aug 2023
- d) KDWP Aug 2023

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – \$1,101,337.91
- b) Payroll – Change for Jake Bland, Jeanne Carson and Bethanie Yanell & Enrollment for Colton Slocum
- c) Clerk's journal entry #42

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Symes moved to adjourn, Commissioner Daniels seconded, and motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 9:42 a.m. until Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly's Room of the courthouse.

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David Lee, Chairperson

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Bruce Symes, Commissioner

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Jill Allen, Deputy County Clerk

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Jerry Daniels, Commissioner